

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A robot system, comprising:
2 a robot that has a camera, a monitor and a speaker,
3 said camera captures a video image of a caller recipient;
4 and,
5 a remote station that has a monitor, a microphone to
6 establish a voice communication with said robot, and an
7 alert input to request the video image during said voice
8 communication.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein said remote station
2 receives the video image from said robot in response to a
3 user input at said robot.

1 3. The system of claim 2, wherein said robot includes
2 a microphone, said remote station includes a speaker that
3 receives audio from said robot.

1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein said alert input
2 generates a sound at said robot.

1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein said alert input
2 generates a visual prompt on said robot monitor.

1 6. The system of claim 5, wherein said visual prompt
2 is a graphical icon.

1 7. The system of claim 1, wherein said alert input is
2 generated from a graphical icon of a graphical user
3 interface displayed on said remote station monitor.

1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein said graphical icon
2 has an appearance of a door knocker.

1 9. The system of claim 7, further comprising a
2 graphical icon that has an appearance of a horn.

1 10. The system of claim 1, wherein said robot includes
2 a mobile platform.

1 11. A robot system, comprising:
2 a robot that has a camera, a monitor and a speaker,
3 said camera captures a video image of a caller recipient;
4 and,

5 remote station means for establishing a voice
6 communication with said robot and generating an alert input
7 to request the video image during said voice communication.

1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein said remote
2 station means receives the video image from said robot in
3 response to a user input at said robot.

1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein said robot
2 includes a microphone, said remote station means includes a
3 speaker that receives audio from said robot.

1 14. The system of claim 11, wherein said alert input
2 generates a sound at said robot.

1 15. The system of claim 11, wherein said alert input a
2 visual prompt on said robot monitor.

1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein said visual prompt
2 is a graphical icon.

1 17. The system of claim 12, wherein said alert input
2 is generated from a graphical icon of a graphical user
3 interface.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein said graphical
2 icon has an appearance of a door knocker.

1 19. The system of claim 17, further comprising a
2 graphical icon that has an appearance of a horn.

1 20. The system of claim 11, wherein said robot
2 includes a mobile platform.

1 21. A method for accessing a robot, comprising:
2 establishing a voice communication between a remote
3 station and a robot;
4 transmitting an alert input from the remote station to
5 the robot; and,
6 transmitting a video image from the robot to the remote
7 station.

1 22. The method of claim 21, further comprising
2 inputting a user input before transmitting the video image
3 from the robot to the remote station.

1 23. The method of claim 22, further comprising
2 transmitting audio from the robot to the remote station.

1 24. The method of claim 21, wherein the alert input
2 generates a sound at the robot.

1 25. The method of claim 21, wherein the alert
2 indicator generates a visual prompt on a robot monitor.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the visual prompt
2 is a graphical icon.

1 27. The method of claim 21, wherein the alert input is
2 generated from a graphical icon of a graphical user
3 interface.

1 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the graphical icon
2 has an appearance of a door knocker.

1 29. The method of claim 27, further comprising
2 generating a sound at the robot by selecting a graphical
3 icon that has an appearance of a horn.

1 30. The method of claim 21, further comprising moving
2 the robot through control commands from the remote station.

1 31. A robot system, comprising:
2 a broadband network;
3 a robot that is coupled to said broadband network and
4 has a camera, a monitor and a speaker, said camera captures
5 a video image of a caller recipient; and,
6 a remote station that is coupled to said broadband
7 network and has a monitor, a microphone to establish a
8 voice communication with said robot, and an alert input to
9 request the video image during said voice communication.

1 32. The system of claim 31, wherein said remote
2 station receives the video image from said robot through
3 said broadband network in response to a user input at said
4 robot.

1 33. The system of claim 32, wherein said robot
2 includes a microphone, said remote station includes a
3 speaker that receives audio from said robot through said
4 broadband network.

1 34. The system of claim 31, wherein said alert input
2 generates a sound at said robot.

1 35. The system of claim 31, wherein said alert input
2 generates a visual prompt on said robot monitor.

1 36. The system of claim 35, wherein said visual prompt
2 is a graphical icon.

1 37. The system of claim 32, wherein said alert input
2 is generated from a graphical icon of a graphical user
3 interface displayed on said remote station monitor.

1 38. The system of claim 37, wherein said graphical
2 icon has an appearance of a door knocker.

1 39. The system of claim 37, further comprising a
2 graphical icon that has an appearance of a horn.

1 40. The system of claim 31, wherein said robot
2 includes a mobile platform.

1 41. The system of claim 31, further comprising a base
2 station coupled to said broadband network and wirelessly
3 coupled to said robot.

1 42. A robot system, comprising:
2 a broadband network;
3 a robot that is coupled to said broadband network and
4 has a camera, a monitor and a speaker, said camera captures
5 a video image of a caller recipient; and,
6 remote station means for establishing a voice
7 communication with said robot through said broadband
8 network and generating an alert input to request the video
9 image during said voice communication.

1 43. The system of claim 42, wherein said remote
2 station means receives the video image from said robot
3 through said broadband network in response to a user input
4 at said robot.

1 44. The system of claim 43, wherein said robot
2 includes a microphone, said remote station means includes a
3 speaker that receives audio from said robot through said
4 broadband network.

1 45. The system of claim 42, wherein said alert input
2 generates a sound at said robot.

1 46. The system of claim 42, wherein said alert input
2 generates a visual prompt on said robot monitor.

1 47. The system of claim 46, wherein said visual prompt
2 is a graphical icon.

1 48. The system of claim 42, wherein said alert input
2 is generated from a graphical icon of a graphical user
3 interface.

1 49. The system of claim 48, wherein said graphical
2 icon has an appearance of a door knocker.

1 50. The system of claim 48, further comprising a
2 graphical icon that has an appearance of a horn.

1 51. The system of claim 42, wherein said robot
2 includes a mobile platform.

1 52. The system of claim 42, further comprising a base
2 station coupled to said broadband network and wirelessly
3 coupled to said robot.

1 53. A method for accessing a robot, comprising:
2 establishing a voice communication between a remote
3 station and a robot through a broadband network;
4 transmitting an alert input from the remote station to
5 the robot through the broadband network; and,
6 transmitting a video image from the robot to the remote
7 station through the broadband network.

1 54. The method of claim 53, further comprising
2 inputting a user input before transmitting the video image
3 from the robot to the remote station through the broadband
4 network.

1 55. The method of claim 54, further comprising
2 transmitting audio from the robot to the remote station
3 through the broadband network.

1 56. The method of claim 53, wherein the alert input
2 generates a sound at the robot.

1 57. The method of claim 53, wherein the alert
2 indicator generates a visual prompt on a robot monitor.

1 58. The method of claim 57, wherein the visual prompt
2 is a graphical icon.

1 59. The method of claim 54, wherein the inputting of
2 the user input includes a selection of a graphical icon of
3 a graphical user interface.

1 60. The method of claim 58, wherein the graphical icon
2 has an appearance of a door knocker.

1 61. The method of claim 59, further comprising
2 generating a sound at the robot by selecting a graphical
3 icon has an appearance of a horn.

1 62. The method of claim 53, further comprising moving
2 the robot through control commands transmitted through the
3 broadband network from the remote station.